

**For U.S. forces
serving abroad**

Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Friday, May 8, 1998

Eight pages

Death toll at 81 in Italy flooding

QUINDICI, Italy (AP) — Rescuers pulled out more bodies today from homes and cars engulfed in mud slides, but said three days after the disaster that some isolated areas had yet to be reached. Authorities put the death toll at 81.

In this small town 80 miles east of Naples, the priority was clearing roads to reach outlying homes, said Gaetano Simonetti, a civil defense coordinator.

Lack of supplies hampered the efforts. "We don't have all the trucks we need," he said.

He said eight bodies had been found today, but "there is no way to tell how many people are still lost." Near him, a mound of cars on a main road lay crushed on top of each other, swept away by a raging mud torrent Tuesday night.

Some of the cars were buried and it was impossible to tell whether people were inside.

The civil defense agency has report-

ed widely fluctuating numbers of missing. The latest count was 107, but officials in nearby Sarno, the hardest-hit town, said the number was double that there alone.

Days after torrential rains unleashed massive landslides across a heavily populated area south and east of Naples, rescue crews were losing hope of finding living victims.

"There still might be a few lucky survivors, trapped in air bubbles in the mud, or within undamaged structures," said civil defense official Roberto Malisan in Sarno. "But the more hours pass the more hope fades."

Malisan estimated it would take four days to clear all the muck.

Even as rescue crews dug, some people started returning home. On the main street in Quindici, the mud was up to the door knobs. Families tried to dig through to their front doors.

The mood was at times ugly.

Senate panel barely rejects base closings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration's hopes for a new round of military base closings was all but dead on Capitol Hill anyway. A key Senate committee is driving home the point, rejecting an effort to approve the new reductions sought by the administration.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, working on a bill to authorize Pentagon programs in fiscal 1999, which begins Oct. 1, on Thursday rejected by a 9-8 vote a proposal by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Carl Levin, D-Mich., to authorize the additional base closings.

The administration formally has not submitted such a plan. But Defense Secretary William Cohen has been advocating more base closings for months and has been actively lobbying lawmakers to approve a plan to shut down more bases in 2001 and 2005.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, accused the Pentagon of "a dysfunctional estimate of base-closing accounting" and welcomed the vote.

The issue resurfaced earlier this week as Republicans accused the administration of seeking to save jobs at McClellan Air Force Base in California, due to close in 2001, by encouraging Lockheed Martin, a Bethesda, Md.-based defense contractor, to bid on the work.

The White House has denied trying to influence the bidding process. Cohen earlier this week announced he would subject the decision at McClellan to an independent review.

McCain, who has often moved against programs he considers to be wasteful, said he was "disappointed, but not surprised" at the committee vote, which was taken in a closed-door session.

"Clearly, politics prevented my colleagues from doing what is in the best interests of the military — closing unneeded bases and using the savings for essential force modernization," McCain said Thursday.

U.S. intelligence on Iraq doubted

WASHINGTON (AP) — Intelligence information available to U.S. commanders in the most recent crisis with Iraq was inadequate to support a military campaign, lawmakers said Thursday.

Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, cited "serious shortfalls" in what U.S. intelligence needed to know as the chances of conflict with Iraq appeared likely.

"Earlier this year, the

United States came to the brink of military confrontation with Saddam Hussein," Goss said. "Yet we did so without all of the information necessary to support a serious campaign."

Goss' remarks came as the House passed the 1999 national intelligence authorization bill. The budget for national intelligence is classified, but knowledgeable officials said it is slightly larger than 1998's \$26.7 billion.

Officials familiar with

the Iraq issue said the intelligence gaps concerned U.S. ability to assess Iraqi capabilities to launch weapons of mass destruction, particularly chemical and biological weapons.

Goss said, "Such gaps endanger U.S. lives and interests and are not acceptable."

An Intelligence Committee report, sent to the House Thursday, cited the intelligence community for failing to develop adequate options for policymakers in recent months.

Witnesses back fliers at hearing

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — Back-seat crewmen in a Marine jet that cut a ski gondola cable had no more control over their plane during the deadly accident, defense witnesses said, than did a military judge who sat in a jet to learn more about the case.

Defense lawyers began building their case Thursday that the two crewmen weren't responsible for the flight path or speed of the Prowler EA-6B jet.

Twenty people at an Italian ski resort were killed Feb. 3 when the jet sliced through the cables, sending the gondola car plummeting to the ground.

Military judge Lt. Col. Ronald Rogers, at the defense lawyers' request, put on a flight suit, helmet and survival vest and climbed into a Prowler's cramped cockpit Thursday at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station.

Rodgers will recommend whether to call a court-martial on manslaughter charges against crewmen Capt. Chandler Seagraves, 28, of Nineveh, Ind., and Capt. William Raney II, 26, of Englewood, Colo.

Testimony was to wrap up today.

Prosecutors contend the rear-seat crew knew the jet was flying too low and too fast and should have called a halt to the flight. They argue the aviators are just as culpable as the pilot and navigator because part of their jobs included serving as lookouts.

Each crewman is charged with 20 counts each of involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide, destroying private and government property, and dereliction of duty. Each faces life in prison if convicted.

DODDS teachers to get 3.3% pay hike

By Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Teachers and staff members in the military school system should look forward to a pay increase averaging 3.3 percent soon, officials said Wednesday.

The raise comes a year after teachers got a boost of about 3 percent, said Paul Wolfe, personnel director for the Department of Defense Education Activity. The decision was announced at a meeting of senior education, union and military officials.

On another money-related matter, activity director Lillian Gonzalez will be presenting budget proposals for fiscal 1999 to 2005 to Congress later this

Vietnam vet to be exhumed from Tomb of Unknowns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fourteen years after President Reagan presided over the burial of a Vietnam veteran in the Tomb of the Unknowns, the remains will be exhumed to see whether they can be identified after all.

Relatives of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael J. Blassie, a missing Vietnam War pilot, believe his remains are buried in the tomb.

The decision announced Thursday, his sister said, could put them "one step closer to bringing our family member home."

Defense Secretary William Cohen agreed to disinter the remains "after weighing the sanctity of the tomb with the need for the fullest possible accounting," said Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon.

"If we can identify the remains now we have an obligation to try," Bacon said. The families, he said, "deserve nothing less."

Blassie's family requested the re-

mains be exhumed for possible identification in the hope modern and sophisticated forensics techniques can help.

"I can't say we're surprised, but we're certainly pleased," Pat Blassie, the pilot's sister, said Thursday. "We've been told that in a best-case scenario, we will have word in one month. And the worst-case scenario is that it will take 10 to 12 weeks."

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the exhumation is a result of "a very strong commitment that this president and this administration have to the fullest possible accounting for those who are still missing from the Vietnam War."

"That we see as a good thing," McCurry said. "The question of whether or not they (the remains) may, at some point, be someone unknown, dead from the Vietnam War, is something we just have to examine and get good scientific advice on."

House panel OKs buying 2 F-22s

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee approved more than half a billion dollars to buy two radar-evading F-22s, setting aside worries that the Air Force's next-generation fighter program is running behind schedule and over budget.

In voting out the \$270.8 billion defense authorization budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, the House National Security Committee approved Wednesday night President Clinton's full F-22 budget request.

The Pentagon will spend \$595.1 million for two production models of the stealth fighter, \$1.6 billion for research and development of the Raptor weapons program and an additional \$190.2 million toward procuring six more F-22s in fiscal year 2000.

In March, the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, recommended that the \$62.1 billion F-22 program be delayed for a year because of engineering problems and a lack of flight testing.

Stripes

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To contact the Stripes staff, call DSN 349-8220 (civilian 49-6155-601220). Our fax is DSN 349-8416.

Our mailing address:

Stripes

c/o Unit 29480

APO AE 09211

Our e-mail address :

Stripeslit@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Senate OKs IRS overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation to root out abuse of taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service is headed for final compromise negotiations following a rare unanimous vote in the Senate.

"The IRS has been out of control," Senate Republican Whip Don Nickles said Thursday night, shortly before the 97-0 roll call.

The legislation would see to it "that people who are God-fearing and willing to pay their taxes have nothing" to fear from the IRS, added Nickles, R-Okla.

The measure would provide a variety of new rights for taxpayers, including shifting the burden of proof to the IRS in certain court cases. It also would provide protections for divorcees, mostly women, who face collection actions because of mistakes made by former spouses with-

out their knowledge.

IRS penalties and interest would be suspended in some circumstances, and a new nine-member oversight board would gain authority over law enforcement and collections activity as well as personnel.

Passage came several days after the Senate Finance Committee held a series of hearings at which taxpayers, including former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, described mistreatment at the hands of the IRS.

"The problem is that the agency itself has too much power and not enough sunshine," said Sen. William V. Roth, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and chief architect of the bill. "It's an environment where honesty can be met by retaliation, where employees can be frightened to come forward."

Budget could ax 'marriage penalty'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House budget chairman says the \$1.7 trillion spending plan for 1999 that Republicans will write this election year will propose rolling back the "marriage tax penalty," a top priority for many conservatives.

Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, said Thursday that he will propose eliminating or cutting the penalty at a likely cost of \$50 billion to \$100 billion over five years. That exceeds the unspecified \$30 billion tax cut the Senate envisioned in the budget it approved last month.

The marriage penalty refers to the additional income tax many married people owe compared with what they would pay if they were single.

The income tax generally is biased in favor of married couples; more of their income is taxed at a lower rate than if they were single. But that bias is offset when two spouses whose earnings are similar combine their incomes on to a joint return. Also, the standard deduction is smaller for one couple than it is for two singles.

For Republicans, rolling back the marriage penalty

has been a featured political plank for a decade, since a special deduction for two-earner couples was repealed in 1986. Accomplishing it has been stymied by its annual price tag exceeding \$20 billion.

But it is a favorite of a core GOP constituency: conservative pro-family groups. Kasich, a possible presidential contender in 2000, hopes to combine its appeal with his drive for additional spending cuts this year. "People would be thrilled if we could cut government to eliminate the marriage penalty," Kasich said.

'A very fine year to be graduating'

CHICAGO (AP) — At a recent recruiting conference, Northwestern University placement director William Banis casually mentioned a college freshman he had hired to maintain his office computer network. He was astonished when dozens of companies asked for the student's name.

For college students, this is hottest hiring market in almost three decades.

With the economy booming, employers expect a whopping 27.5 percent increase in job openings for 1998 college graduates, according to an annual survey by Michigan State University.

Employers competing for an unusually small pool of graduates this year are offering stock options, tuition reimbursement and, for some top law and business graduates, starting salaries of more than \$100,000. One company offered a chance at door prizes such as a TV set just to get students to fill out job applications.

"This year is really a very fine year to be graduating," said Patrick Scheetz, author of the Michigan State study.

The prizes in this cutthroat competition are young men and women who have grown up with their hands on a computer, giving them an edge in the increasingly technology-based corporate workplace.

"We've seen much more aggressiveness on the part of employers that has led to the class of '98 doing very well and doing very well a lot earlier, with large salary increases and bonuses," Banis said.

Average starting salaries jumped 4 percent to 5 percent, the biggest increase in 10 years, according to the survey.

Greenspan urges better banking regulation worldwide

WASHINGTON (AP) — To better prevent or at least cope with future Asian-style currency crises, there is a critical need to upgrade the quality of financial regulation around the world, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday.

Greenspan said "better and more forceful" supervision by bank regulators was necessary because both the Asian crisis and the earlier 1994-95 Mexican peso cri-

sis had their roots in shaky financial systems.

"In all countries, we need independent bank examiners who understand banking and business risk, who could in effect, make sound loans themselves because they understand the process," he said in remarks to a international banking conference in Chicago.

"Experienced bank supervision cannot fully substitute for poor lending proce-

dures, but presumably it could encourage better practice," he said.

Greenspan said the training needed to develop this improved banking supervision in many countries will take time. But he said it was crucial to move as quickly as possible in the area of bank supervision and general understanding of how the new global financial system operates with its ability to speed billions of dollars of investment around the globe.

Starr lashes back at Clinton lawyers

WASHINGTON (AP) — With biting letters to President Clinton's lawyers and an ultimatum that they withdraw a court filing, Whitewater prosecutors are displaying rare public anger against attorneys for the president and two White House aides.

Instead of lawyerly arguments, the prosecutorial fur was flying Thursday — set off by a White House court complaint that accused Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr of leaking a judge's secret ruling on executive privilege.

The complaint asked that the prosecutors prove why they should not be held in contempt.

"Although we owe you no courtesy after yesterday's abusive filing, we demand that you withdraw your motion by noon" today, Starr's chief deputy, Jackie M. Bennett Jr., wrote. "Otherwise we will seek appropriate relief from the court, including sanctions against each of the persons under whose names the motion was submitted."

Clinton's private lawyer, David Kendall, responded, "The request to withdraw (the complaint) is ridiculous."

Clinton invoked executive privilege — the doctrine that protects the privacy of some presidential conversations — in hopes that aides such as Bruce Lindsey

and Sidney Blumenthal, while before a grand jury, could withhold answers to some questions in Starr's investigation of an alleged presidential affair with Monica Lewinsky and a cover-up.

In a ruling made Monday but kept under seal, Chief U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson rejected the executive privilege claim, and the White House was expected to appeal.

Kendall and four other lawyers filed the complaint against Starr — not the first court filing accusing the prosecutor of leaks — after the Fox News Channel attributed a report on the ruling to Starr's office.

One killed, four injured as Kosovo unrest continues

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — One ethnic Albanian was killed and four wounded when unknown assailants ambushed their van, and two police were wounded in a separate assault on their checkpoint, Serbian authorities said today.

Both attacks occurred late Thursday, when the Yugoslav army reported the first clash on the border between Montenegro and neighboring Albania, and said one soldier and one attacker died.

Until now, Yugoslav soldiers have battled alleged Albanian gun runners only in the mountains dividing Albania from Serbia's Kosovo province. Serbia and much smaller Montenegro make up Yugoslavia.

Daily violence in Kosovo, where an ethnic Albanian majority seeks independence from Serbia, has claimed well over 150 lives since Feb. 28,

when Serbian police began a violent crackdown against armed Albanian militants.

Foreign attempts to avert a wider war by getting Serbs and Albanians to discuss restoration of the autonomy Serbia stripped from Kosovo in 1989 have failed. The Albanians insist on foreign mediation; the Serbs reject it, saying they can settle their own problems in a region they treasure as the cradle of their culture.

On Friday, the Serbian media center — close to Kosovo's Serbian government — said one ethnic Albanian was killed and four other passengers wounded when the van carrying them to work at a nearby power station was sprayed with machinegun fire by unknown assailants near Decani, close to the border with Albania. Decani, is about 43 miles southwest of Kosovo's capital, Pristina.

Candid comments on teen sex emerge in computer poll

By Scripps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — Teen-aged boys appear much more candid about reporting drug use, sex and other risky behavior on a computer than on a pencil-and-paper questionnaire, researchers report in a study today.

The study suggests that teen males may be far more likely to do things such as use hard drugs, carry guns or knives, or engage in homosexual sex than most previous research has shown.

The 1995 survey of 1,600 boys aged 15-19 found that those who answered a confidential questionnaire by pressing number keys on a computer keyboard rather than filling out answers with pencil and paper were two or three times more likely to admit behaviors that put them at high risk for HIV infection.

While the researchers had expected the new technique would bring "modest improvement" in reporting, instead, "the large differences we found were surprising," said Charles Turner, lead researcher on the study done by the Research Triangle Institute, the Urban Institute and the University of Illinois.

"If this measurement technology provides a more accurate picture of patterns of sexual behavior, drug use and violence among adolescent males," the researchers said, "then the risks they are encountering are substantially greater than was previously reported."

Among those using the new survey technique, for example, 5.5 percent said they had engaged in some type of male-male sex, vs. 1.5 percent filling out paper forms.

Europe seeks help to halt cigarette smuggling

NEW YORK (AP) — Frustrated by a boom in cigarette smuggling, European nations have asked the United States to help curb the flow of U.S. cigarettes to the black market, The New York Times reported today.

The European nations want help in determining whether U.S. tobacco companies are involved in the smuggling. A Treasury

Department spokesman said the United States anticipates "trying to be as helpful as possible."

Experts estimate that one-fourth of all American cigarettes sold in Europe go through the smuggling rings, the Times said.

European authorities say tobacco companies sell American cigarettes to traders who resell them on the black market at dis-

counted prices without paying local taxes.

The smuggling cost European governments \$1.5 billion in lost taxes last year, according to a European Union report released Wednesday in Vienna, Austria.

It is the first time European countries have asked for help, and their first target is the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Angry protests spur unrest in Indonesia

From wire reports

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Angry protests against President Suharto escalated today, with police arresting 200 demonstrators in front of Parliament and firing tear gas at rock-throwing students on at least one campus.

As workers swept up debris in the wake of rioting over price increases in Medan, Indonesia's third-largest city, thousands of students marched off a campus in the city of Solo and battled police.

At the Teaching and Education Institute in Jakarta, students staged a mock trial of Suharto, the 76-year-old former army commander whom they blame for Indonesia's economic crisis.

"Suharto should be executed," shouted a student who played the role of judge.

London says yes to a mayor

LONDON — Londoners gave overwhelming approval to electing their own mayor for the first time in history, the next step in Prime Minister Tony Blair's drive to decentralize power across Britain.

With all 33 districts reporting today, the vote for a strong elected mayor and assembly was 72 percent in favor. In local elections around Britain, the opposition Conservative Party made modest gains.

Only 34 percent of London's 5 million registered voters turned out.

Inspections ordered on 737s

WASHINGTON — The discovery of leaking fuel in a pipe carrying electrical wires on an older Boeing 737 prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to order quick inspections of similar aircraft Thursday. Less-urgent inspections were ordered for two other Boeing planes.

The affected pipe ran through a wing fuel tank, and FAA and Boeing officials determined that fuel got into the pipe through two pin-sized holes. They suspect those holes were caused by electrical arcing within the pipe, creating an atmosphere of air, fuel and electricity that could spark a fuel tank explosion like that suspected of downing TWA Flight 800.

VW to acquire Rolls-Royce

Switching suitors at the altar with coquettish speed, Britain's Vickers PLC announced Thursday that it had accepted a \$710 million bid from Volkswagen AG for Rolls Royce Motor Cars — just eight days after it embraced a lower offer from rival BMW AG.

Clinton: U.S. cannot force peace in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rejecting GOP claims that he was siding with Palestinians, President Clinton defended his proposal for Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank while insisting that the United States "cannot impose a solution."

Clinton sent his special envoy, Dennis Ross, back to Israel on Thursday and said he hoped to jump-start peace talks in the Middle East and "simply regain the momentum that has been lost in the past few months."

But suggesting some flexibility in the U.S. position on withdrawals, he said, "What we are trying to do is to get the parties over a hurdle so they can get into this final status talks so we can stay on the timetable established a few years ago by both the Palestinians and the Israelis to finish the whole thing by this month next year."

He made his remarks Thursday night in a speech before an Arab American Institute conference — the first time a sitting

president ever has addressed such an Arab American meeting.

"I'm surprised, frankly, and also disappointed," Clinton said after getting a long standing ovation from several hundred people gathered in a hotel ballroom. "Because the Arab-American community has made an enormous contribution to this country."

Congressional lawmakers, led by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., are accusing Clinton of bullying Israel into giving up more West Bank territory than Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says it is safe to turn over to the Palestinian Authority. Administration officials dismissed the claim as playing politics.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright this week said Clinton would hold a meeting in Washington on Monday if Israel agreed to the U.S. proposal, which calls for Israel to make a 13 percent withdrawal from the West Bank over a 12-week period.

Russia rips U.S. on NATO growth

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia accused the United States of making "a fatal mistake" Thursday by ratifying NATO's expansion to Eastern Europe, saying the decision could threaten the START II treaty, a news agency reported.

The unusually blunt statement followed a week of virtual silence from Russia regarding the U.S. Senate's NATO vote last week. On Monday, Poland's foreign minister said the lack of official re-

action from Moscow was a sign of "silent approval and understanding." But while Russia had acquiesced in NATO's expansion to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, it did so begrudgingly.

After a meeting among top Russian officials Thursday to discuss the vote, the Defense Ministry issued a statement saying the United States "had made a fatal mistake, which might lead to extremely negative process-

es fraught with historical consequences," the Interfax news agency reported.

The outburst came while President Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, was in Moscow to meet with Russian officials about the START II treaty, which would cut the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals by more than half.

The U.S. ratified the treaty last year, but the Russian Parliament has yet to approve it.

Annan takes heat during trip to Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — In a harsh rebuke to U.N. chief Kofi Annan, Rwandan officials on Thursday condemned the United Nations for making many mistakes in their country, culminating in genocide in 1994.

Later, President Pasteur Bizimungu, Vice President

Paul Kagame and Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigyema all boycotted a reception they were to host for Annan, saying they were offended by the secretary-general's speech to Parliament earlier Thursday.

Annan said then that the world and the United Na-

tions failed Rwanda by not preventing the genocide of more than 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis.

Presidential spokesman Joseph Bideri said that Annan's words to Parliament were "extremely arrogant, insensitive and insulting to the Rwandan people."

Sweet Baby James strings along

From Associated Press

Forget the bare-bones acoustic guitar. James Taylor was backed by strings galore when he sang his new song, *Boston to Belfast*, at Boston's Symphony Hall.

Taylor headlined the Boston Pops' opening night Wednesday. Earlier in the day, he and conductor Keith Lockhart fine-tuned arrangements of favorites such as *Fire and Rain*.

Lockhart said he was thrilled to work again with the man who wrote "the soundtrack of our lives." The two performed together at the opening of the FleetCenter in 1995.

**Faces
'n'
places**

Aerosmith delayed

Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler is on the mend from knee surgery that forced the band to postpone its North American tour through June 4.

Tyler hurt his knee when he fell during a concert in Alaska last week.

Aerosmith was scheduled to play a weekend show in La Crosse, Wis., the fastest sellout venue on this tour. The band has offered to reschedule a show in the fall.

Pick joy, women urged

Naomi Judd encourages women to "choose the joy," no matter what.

Addressing the Biennial Conference for Working Women at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Judd recalled when she was a young divorced mother running away from an abusive boyfriend.

Brinkley won't get millions from tabloid

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge ruled that even though National Enquirer printed "truly obnoxious" stories about Christie Brinkley, the model has no cause to seek \$42 million from the tabloid.

State Supreme Court Justice Emily Jane Goodman tossed out the supermodel's lawsuit against the tabloid and three of its employees Wednesday.

Brinkley, 43, sued over several 1997 stories. Her court papers said the tabloid falsely reported she had a nervous breakdown, delusions and paranoia, an irrational fear of cows, and was a "wild shopaholic" who spent \$30,000 in one day on clothes.

"I had an epiphany. I realized my life looked as bad and battered as that beat-up, bruised face in the mirror," she said Tuesday.

Judd decided to take her two young daughters, Wynonna and Ashley, back home to Kentucky, where Judd put herself through nursing school.

Country music fans know the rest of her story: She and Wynonna realized they could sing together, so they moved to Nashville and formed the hit duo The Judds.

They split up when Naomi developed hepatitis C, but it is in remission and Judd remains active as a restaurateur, author and speaker.

Pacino movie a smoker

Al Pacino will go deep into the heart of tobacco country for his new movie about a former cigarette company vice president who turned against the industry.

With Pacino, star of *The Godfather* trilogy and other films, due to arrive in two weeks, a movie crew went to work Tuesday getting the Louisville, Ky., neighborhood ready. Outside one house, crew members cut down a 20-foot tree and moved it to a front lawn, securing it on a metal platform.

"I think it's in the budget to move the tree six more times," Shawn Tutt said while processing sod as part of the landscaping overhaul.

Pacino will play *60 Minutes* producer Lowell Bergman, who interviewed former Brown & Williamson tobacco industry whistle-blower Jeffrey Wigand in a segment for the news show.

Geraldo tapes final episode

NEW YORK (AP) — Say goodbye to the talk show host who was throwing punches back when Jerry Springer was just a washed-up politician.

A subdued Geraldo Rivera taped the 2,163rd and last episode of his daytime talk show Thursday, giving it up as part of his agreement to take on a larger role at NBC News.

Family and friends raised glasses of champagne after Rivera introduced tapes of the past 11 years and brought back a chair he'd like to forget.

It was the one a white supremacist used in 1988 to conk Rivera over the head, breaking his nose and setting a new standard for daytime TV debauchery. Barely wincing at the memory, Rivera even pointed out that he got a few punches in after being hit.

Rivera spent much of the past decade trying to live that infamous moment down. He hopes he's regained respect as a newsman through his nightly legal affairs show on CNBC.

His second nightly CNBC news show, *Upfront Tonight*, will debut on July 13.

"I feel on this day very curious," he said. "On the one hand, I feel very optimistic about the future. On the other hand, I feel very wistful, sad and nostalgic for the days gone by."

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1988 — President Reagan assured West Germany that the U.S. commitment to Bonn and the NATO alliance remains "unshakable."

20 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1978 — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy was a clear first choice for president among Democrats in a Gallup Poll, but he insisted he would not be a candidate.

30 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1968 — Officials disqualified Dancer's Image, winner of the Kentucky Derby, saying that tests showed the horse had been drugged before the race.

40 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1958 — The Western Big Three - Britain, France and the United States - announced that they would be willing to take some of their NATO partners into East-West summit talks with the Soviet Union.

50 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1948 — In a speech to the Congress of Europe at The Hague, Netherlands, Winston Churchill called for immediate formation of a European assembly as a step toward a European Federation.

Family showdown at Italian Open

ROME (AP) — Get ready for Williams vs. Williams II.

The Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, routed their opponents Thursday in the Italian Open to set a meeting in the quarterfinals, the second family showdown this year.

In the latest exploit of her short career, the unseeded Serena shocked four-time Italian champ Conchita Martinez. Drawing cheers from the Foro Italico center-court crowd, she eliminated the No. 7 seed 6-2, 6-2.

The ninth-seeded Venus, playing on the nearby grandstand court, needed ousted French qualifier Alexandra Fusai 6-1, 6-1.

Yet another new talent pulled off an upset at night, when 16-year-old Mirjana Lucic beat defending champion Mary Pierce 7-5, 6-4. Lucic, who won last week's Bol Open in her native Croatia, brought to five the number of teen-agers in the quarterfinals.

The tournament lost one of its favorites when No. 6 Monica Seles lost to No. 12 Sandrine Testud 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

In the meantime, the world's No. 1 player, Martina Hingis, had another easy outing, cruising by No. 10 Irina Spirlea 6-1, 6-2.

Mookie's kid stars in debut

By Associated Press

Before, he was simply Mookie's kid.

Now, after getting three hits in his major-league debut, he might be the New York Mets' next star.

Preston Wilson, the 23-year-old stepson of Mookie Wilson, the former Mets outfielder and current first base coach, went 3-for-4, drove in a run and stole a base as the Mets defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 4-1 Thursday night.

Masato Yoshii (2-1) allowed just two hits in seven innings, including Brian Jordan's home run, and the Japanese-born pitcher helped himself with his first big league hit, a two-run double that made it 3-1 in the fifth.

"I can't ask for anything more," said Wilson, the Mets' top choice in the 1992 draft. "Anytime you get off to a good start, it helps you

relax."

Elsewhere in the NL, it was Atlanta 6, San Diego 3; Montreal 2, Colorado 1; Los Angeles 4, Florida 3; Philadelphia 4, Arizona 1; and Pittsburgh 8, Cincinnati 7. The Giants-Cubs game at Chicago was rained out.

Braves 6, Padres 3

At Atlanta, John Smoltz drove in three runs and got his third win as the Braves won their fourth straight.

Atlanta, which has won nine of 10, is off to its best start after 34 games — 24-10 — since 1969.

Expos 2, Rockies 1

At Montreal, Carlos Perez took a shutout into the ninth inning and won for the first time in 12 starts since last Sept. 3.

Perez (1-3) allowed seven hits in eight-plus

innings, struck out four and walked none.

Dodgers 4, Marlins 3

Ramon Martinez (4-2) survived a shaky start to pitch eight innings, and Raul Mondesi capped a comeback with a two-run single for Los Angeles at Florida.

Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 1

Curt Schilling struck out 12 — his sixth time in double digits this season, and allowed three hits in seven innings.

Schilling (4-3) raised his major league-leading strikeout total to 90, 45 ahead of the No. 2 pitcher — Chicago's Kerry Wood.

Pirates 8, Reds 7

At Pittsburgh, Jason Kendall's two-run single in the eighth capped the Pirates' comeback.

Bret Boone, Willie Greene and Chris Stynes homered as the Reds led 4-2 and 7-5 before the Pirates rallied.



NCAA plans to appeal \$67 million penalty

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP) — Claiming its case wasn't given a fair hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Kathryn Vratil, the NCAA said Thursday it will appeal the \$67 million judgment awarded to assistant coaches whose salaries it unlawfully restricted.

The roughly 1,900 coaches involved in the class-action suit were awarded \$22.3 million in damages by a federal jury in Kansas City, Kan., on Monday after three weeks of testimony.

Under antitrust law, damages are trebled. The huge award has triggered widespread resentment among NCAA schools not only at the jury, but at the NCAA's management of the case. If allowed to stand, the penalty would cause financial pain to many schools, which would be required ultimately to foot the bill.

The restricted earnings rule was adopted as part of a cost-saving package of legislation that eliminated many coaching positions in 1991. It took effect in 1992 and three groups of coaches filed suit after the NCAA rebuffed their pleas to have the rule lifted.

Clemens still can dazzle, too

SEATTLE (AP) — One day after Kerry Wood struck out 20 to tie Roger Clemens' major league record, Clemens showed he still had some zip left in his fastball.

Although Seattle left 16 on base, Clemens had enough to extend his scoreless innings streak to 18 and help the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Mariners 6-0 Thursday night.

Maybe Wood, at 20, is good enough already to be called the new Clemens. But at 35, Clemens is still good enough to be called the old Clemens.

"I made some good pitches when I got in trouble," Clemens said. "When you get in trouble, you've got to go to battling."

"I don't know if (you can) compare anything to the year before," added Clemens, who won his fourth AL Cy Young Award in his first season in Toronto last year, when he was 21-7. "I've got the same stuff I've always

had."

In other AL games, Cleveland beat Texas 7-2, Detroit defeated Oakland 6-3 and Kansas City edged Boston 5-3.

Indians 7, Rangers 2

Bartolo Colon (3-1) pitched a four-hitter for his third career complete game, and visiting Cleveland won its sixth straight.

Colon (3-1) struck out five and walked two, losing the shutout when Will Clark hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth.

Tigers 6, Athletics 3

Andy Tomberlin and Bobby Higginson hit two-run homers as visiting Detroit rallied for the second straight day at Oakland.

Tomberlin, who earlier had an RBI single, hit his first homer of the season in the sixth.

Royals 5, Red Sox 3

Jose Offerman hit his first home run in 463 at-bats since last May 18, and visiting Boston lost consecutive games for the first time since April 6-8.



Plan made to bring NFL back to L.A.

From wire reports

LOS ANGELES — Entertainment executive Michael Ovitz has offered a plan to bring the NFL back to the Los Angeles area, saying he would build a stadium for a team he would own.

Ovitz told commissioner Paul Tagliabue and other NFL officials his proposed stadium would be in Carson, about 10 miles from downtown Los Angeles and would be mostly privately financed.

He envisions the team beginning play in 2002.

Ovitz unveiled his plans during a four-hour meeting at his home Tuesday night. Details were reported Thursday by the Los Angeles Times.

The proposal, one of several offered to replace the departed Rams and Raiders, was the latest that would build a new stadium rather than use the historic Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles.

Sprewell rejects plea

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Calling the terms unacceptable, an attorney for Latrell Sprewell said the suspended NBA star has rejected a prosecutor's offer in his reckless driving case.

"There was no flexibility in it," John Burris said Thursday of the offer that could have sent Sprewell to jail for 90-120 days.

Sprewell, reinstated into the NBA after attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo, faces as much as six months in jail if convicted of misdemeanor reckless driving.

Police say Sprewell was driving at speeds up to 90 mph when he lost control of his Mercedes-Benz and rear-ended a Toyota on Interstate 680 in Walnut Creek on March 1. Two people in the Toyota were injured, although not seriously.

Sprewell's trial is set for May 26, but could be delayed. Perlas and Feliciano are suing Sprewell in Superior Court.

Allen nears plea accord

WASHINGTON — Washington Redskins running back Terry Allen is close to a plea bargain arrangement that includes jail time, community service and a fine for an incident last summer in Georgia in which he was charged with drunken driving, speeding and eluding police.

Allen likely will spend three days in jail, although negotiations are continuing, sources familiar with the discussions said.

Jazz, Pacers go up 2-0

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Patrick Ewing made his comeback. Now all of the New York Knicks need to make one, too.

Ewing made his much-anticipated return from a fractured wrist Thursday night, but his 4 1/2 months of limited activity was plainly apparent as the Knicks dropped an 85-77 decision to the Indiana Pacers, falling behind 2-0 in the second-round series.

"All it takes is one game under my belt," predicted Ewing, who struggled with all facets of his game to negate any inspirational dividend his return may have brought.

"Patrick gave us a big lift, and I think he'll be better in the next game. Everybody knows he can do better," teammate Chris Mills said. "We're all happy he's back. He brings so

much to us."

But on this night, he didn't bring enough.

Ewing shot just 3-for-11 with six rebounds, four fouls, two turnovers, two steals and no assists in 27 minutes as his return lasted longer — and went worse — than many would have predicted.

In the night's other NBA playoff game, Utah defeated San Antonio 109-106 in overtime for a 2-0 series lead.

There are two series tied 1-1, and both resume tonight. Chicago is at Charlotte and the Los Angeles Lakers play host to Seattle.

Jazz 109, Spurs 106

At Salt Lake City, the Spurs had a chance to win

at the end of regulation — just like in Game 1.

This time, Tim Duncan passed the ball instead of shooting it, and Jaren Jackson missed a wide-open three-pointer.

"We've played just as well as Utah in both games, except down the stretch. We've had enough lessons," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

The Jazz hit five free throws in the last 15 seconds to seal the win.

After scoring 33 points in Game 1, Duncan once again led the Spurs with 26 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter. But Duncan missed his only field goal attempt and both of his free throws in overtime.

Malone led the Jazz with 22 points, shooting 10-for-26 from the field. Jeff Hornacek added 21



Battle of capitals goes to Capitals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here's another one for the Olaf Kolzig video library:

When Ottawa's Shawn McEachern appeared to have an open net to poke home a rebound in Thursday night's playoff game, the Washington goalie lunged backwards and reached out to catch the puck just before it crossed the line.

It was one of 36 saves for Kolzig as the Capitals beat the Senators 4-2 in the opener of their Eastern Conference semifinal.

"It either hits my glove or goes over my glove," Kolzig said. "It's one of those lucky things, but I was able to get there to be lucky."

Kolzig, who led all goalies in saves in the first round of the playoffs, stayed in form as Washington started the second round on the right foot.

"Olie was outstanding," said Washington coach Ron Wilson, repeating three words he seems to use after every game these days. "Especially on their power play. They shoot the puck a lot. I felt a lot of their shots until the last couple of minutes were perimeter shots. Olie's a tough guy to beat from a distance."

In Thursday night's other game, Dallas

beat Edmonton 3-1 in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals.

The second round continues tonight with Montreal at Buffalo in the East and St. Louis at Detroit in the West.

The only goals allowed by the 6-foot-3, 225-pound Kolzig on Thursday came from Daniel Alfredsson on a 2-on-1 shorthanded break in the first period and Andreas Dackell's backhand on a power play in the third.

Stars 3, Oilers 1

Defenseman Sergei Zubov scored on two long-distance slap shots and Ed Belfour sparkled in goal for Dallas against visiting Edmonton.

Zubov powered two long shots past Curtis Joseph in the first period for a 2-0 Stars lead.

Mike Keane added an insurance goal early in the third period when he beat Joseph to the glove side after a goal-mouth feed by Mike Modano, his third assist of the game.

Belfour made 31 saves. Joseph, who didn't allow a goal in the last 166:54 of the playoffs after posting back-to-back shutouts against Colorado in the first round, gave up three goals on just 14 shots.

